



Agency for Toxic Substances
and Disease Registry
Atlanta GA 30333

JUN 17 2004

The Honorable John D. Dingell
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515-6115

Dear Mr. Dingell:

This letter supplements my response dated May 13, 2004, to your letter to Dr. Henry Falk regarding work of the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) at the Camp Lejeune Marine Corps Base. In particular, I am writing to provide ATSDR's substantive response to question 13, which my previous letter stated would be provided at a later date, to allow ATSDR time to seek further information.

Question 13: The Navy unsuccessfully attempted to reduce the scope of the ATSDR's proposed full epidemiological study of children exposed in utero. Please identify any issues raised by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) with respect to the scope, methodology, timing, or funding of the ATSDR's proposed survey and epidemiological study. Please provide any documentation of OMB's comments with respect to ATSDR's health assessment at Camp Lejeune or with respect to the proposed survey and epidemiological study for children exposed in utero.

Response: Based on a review of the documents related to Camp Lejeune that are in ATSDR's possession, we have identified and attached to this letter those documents, listed below, that are responsive to your request for identification of issues raised by the Office of Management and Budget.

1. ATSDR Memo for the Record dated 8/28/98, re: conference call with OMB
2. ATSDR Memo for the Record re: phone calls with OMB on 9/11/98 and 9/14/98
3. Note dated 9/14/98, from Wendy Kaye to Erik Godwin (OMB)
4. E-mail dated 9/15/98, from Wendy Kaye to Erik Godwin (OMB)
5. ATSDR Memo for the Record dated 9/17/98, re: conference call with OMB
6. ATSDR Memo for the Record dated 9/24/98, re: ATSDR meeting
7. ATSDR Memo for the Record dated 9/29/98, re: meeting of ATSDR, OMB, and the Navy
8. Memo re: meeting of ATSDR, DOD and OMB (undated, but believed to be from late September 1998, by Kathleen Buchi, USACHPPM)
9. "OMB's comments on the proposed epidemiologic study at Camp Lejeune" (undated; provided by OMB to ATSDR on December 10, 2003)
10. ATSDR's Response to OMB Comments on Draft ICR on Camp Lejeune Case-Control Study, dated 12/29/03
11. OMB "Questions on ICR re: Case-Control Study at Camp Lejeune, received May 27, 2004"

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In addition, based on their recollection of events from 1998, ATSDR staff have identified two issues raised by OMB that are not reflected in the attached documents. Both issues relate to prerequisites for OMB to consider the next phase (the study phase) of the project. First, in order to have confidence that the group was representative, at least 80 percent of the potentially exposed women who were pregnant while living on base at Camp Lejeune needed to complete the survey. Second, in order to justify ATSDR conducting a study at Camp Lejeune, the survey needed to document that there was an excess of specific birth defects and childhood leukemia among the surveyed population.

I understand that senior staff from ATSDR will be meeting with your staff in the near future to further discuss issues related to health impacts of exposure to volatile organic compounds in drinking water at Camp Lejeune. I appreciate your interest in this very important public health matter.

Sincerely,


Julie Louise Gerberding, M.D., M.P.H.
Administrator

Enclosures